

Newsletter of the

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 2001



YOU'RE FULL OF GOOD IDEAS AND READY FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL BUNCOM DAY

The results are in from our member survey, and you voted overwhelmingly in favor of continuing the Buncom Day tradition. Therefore, the Board of Directors has set Saturday, May 26, for our eighth annual get-together from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Many of you had good ideas to enhance our annual social gathering and fund-raiser, and nearly everyone who responded said, keep it the way it is! So we will.

Fifty-four members responded to the question of whether to hold Buncom Day, and the verdict was unanimous. Forty said keep it in the same format, and two opted for a change. Twenty-two of you volunteered to help in some way, and for that we thank you. We will be contacting you to see in what way you would like to be part of the planning and organization.

In response to whether there was interest in reprinting our 1995 book, "Buncom: Crossroads Station," nearly half of you indicated an interest, and most who didn't said you already have one. So we are investigating options for printing and we'll let you know what we come up with.

Now to the fun part. Many of you had great suggestions for enhancing Buncom Day. We can promise there will be more emphasis on history and on socializing among our members and residents. But as for the rest, it depends on the willingness of those of you who volunteered to help to make them become reality. Here's just a sampling of your ideas:

- A place and time for introduction and socializing among neighbors. Name tags.
- Historical display, including photos.
- More craft booths and Country Store.
- Expanded parade.
- Contest for best old-time costume. One of you has volunteered to provide prizes.

Little
Applegate
Sewing
Club



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- Informative displays about the area.
- Sale of historical books, photos, t-shirts, sweatshirts. Locally related books, calendars, photos.
- Re-enactment of persons impersonating early-day residents.
- Picnic for descendants of area pioneers.
- Llama rides. Wagon rides. Stagecoach rides.
- Auction of donated items and services.
- Information areas by BLM, Forest Service, Fire Department, Wildlife Images.
- Square dancing, checkers tournament.
- And, besides Buncom Day, one or two days when the buildings will be open for informal viewing and visiting.

A Buncom Tradition: The Little Applegate Sewing Club

By **Connie Fowler**

At a recent Super Bowl party, I noticed the Baroness of Buncom knitting a Christmas stocking.

"You knit?" I asked her, somewhat amazed.

"Well, this is all I do." She laughed.

Still, it got me thinking about the Little Applegate Sewing Club and how, way back when, we had vowed to keep it going.

When I first mentioned it to a group of the neighbors of the Little Applegate, I hurriedly added, "but we don't have to sew or knit or anything," sure that 90's gals didn't do that sort of thing.

"Oh, I knit (sew, crochet, etc.)," several indignant ladies cried. How could I know?

So we had a few get-togethers, mostly eating and chatting, and then life got in the way and we haven't had one for a while. However, we continue the tradition of the Little Applegate Sewing Club in our hearts, and our intentions are good to have a meeting soon. In fact, the Baroness has recently mentioned she might find time to have it at her home.

You may have heard about this Club before under the name given it by a few of the husbands. Let it be known that although we aren't really offended by being called Babes, (after all, most of us haven't been called that in some time), we are NOT changing the name to Buncom Babes.

As Buncom's Town Crier, I was given an album kept from the early 60's by the Little Applegate Sewing Club. I will have it at Buncom Day this year for you to look at. In it I read that special events included potlucks, Bingo, a July picnic and a Christmas Party.

In the 70's, 20-25 women, including our own Vernice Hall, from all parts of the Applegate, participated in the Club. They continued to meet once a month, sewing lap robes and bibs for local nursing homes.

The L.A. Sewing Club was represented on the Applegate Valley Bicentennial Committee chaired by Phill Holt, in the 1976 National Bicentennial Celebration. The club's booth at a flea market put on by the committee raised \$100 of the \$500 total. Profits went to various bicentennial projects.



The Little Applegate Sewing Club in 1934. Top, left to right: Eleanor Maule, Vieva Saltmarsh, Ethel West, Irene Crump, Mary Hansen, Sophia Straube, Mollie Kleinhammer, Edna Buck. Middle: Cecil Jones, Emma Buckley, Pearl Dunford, Alice Heddburg, Laura Taylor. Front: Lucille Taylor, Mary Hansen, Melissa Cameron, Diana Worthington, Mildred Taylor.

To raise money for the then, Applegate Valley Lions Rural Fire Department, the club made a quilt and sold raffle tickets, raising \$263.50.

Personally, I'm looking forward to the very next meeting of the Little Applegate Sewing Club. I probably won't have a project of my own, but I would help on something to help people in our community.

Here is a history of the club's early beginnings as told by pioneer Vieva Saltmarsh, sometime in the late 1960's, I think.

The History of the Little Applegate Sewing Club

(Told by Vieva Saltmarsh)

One day in the fall of 1932, Mae Powell, who lived back up the gulch behind the little house below Snaveley's, (across from small pond at about 1-3/4 mile up L.A.), took her embroidery over to Ellen Finney's house to visit and embroidery. On

(see Sewing, page 3)

(more Sewing, from Page 2)

that same day, Cecil Jones, who lived in the house below Snavey's, decided to walk up to Ellen's house. They all chatted together and decided to do the same thing the next week.

On the next week's visit, they decided to organize a sewing club and ask other women along the Little Applegate River to come. They asked Edna Buck, Mollie Kleinhammer, Vieve Saltmarsh, Dora Saltmarsh and Ethel West to join, making a total of eight charter members. Cecil Jones was elected chairman and Mae Powell, secretary. They decided to meet once a week at different homes. They took their own sewing or did mending and sewing for the hostess. They often hemmed flour sacks to make dishtowels and pieced quilts for the hostess.

Later on Mrs. Ada Arant, a seamstress, joined the club and started a new project to help poor people. The Finneys were poor so Mrs. Arant cut out dresses for the girls and shirts for the boys. Each member brought three yards of material.

They also pieced quilts for other poor people. These were Depression days and people had big families and no work. In the meantime new members joined such as Irene Crump, Fritz Phillips, Frances Houston and Lillian Pulliam, all living along the River. A special event in March before the spring work started was a big potluck dinner with the husbands and children invited.

During the war they discontinued meetings because of the gasoline shortage. Then, after the war they started up again with meeting once a month. One day Mollie Kleinhammer asked if Mrs. Straube could join and so women from other parts of the Applegate Valley started coming.

During this time Eunice Johnson started the tradition of secret sisters. Each member drew a name and would send cards and gifts to her "secret sister" throughout the year. In December, at the Christmas party, the secret was revealed and a new sister chosen.



Little Applegate Sewing Club, 1980 Christmas Party: Rear: Grace Sharp, Gladys Shreeve, Clara Smith, Helen Buckley, Ann Wisnovsky, Margaret Cramer. Front: Ethel West, Wilma Travis, Susie Evans, Sheri Evans (partly hidden).

BUNCOM'S GETTING FANCY ON THE WEB:

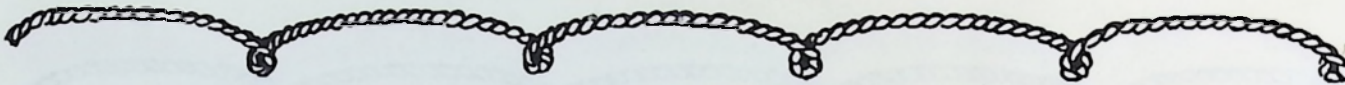
WWW.BUNCOM.ORG

Buncom has a new -- and soon to be expanded -- home on the Internet. We are now "www.buncom.org", our own name after six years of piggy-backing with Mind.Net.

It's not only the location that will be new. Soon we are planning an expansion and updating of our website. We have received a number of positive comments about the simplicity and fun of the site, and we'll do our best not to lose that flavor in the updating.

And, Buncom.org is now part of a "Discover Oregon" group of websites. There's a link on the opening page -- click on it and you can go to any of the other 60 or so sites.

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to make the site even better, please contact Reeve Hennion at 899-7656 or buncom@aol.com.



THANKS TO THESE NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS

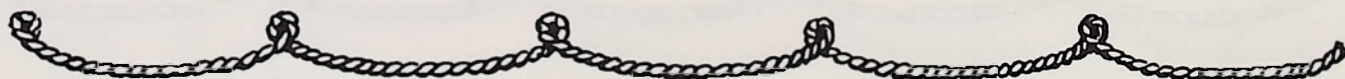
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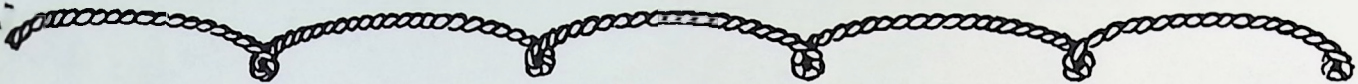
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Judy Hall, Vancouver, WA
Buzz & Marlene Robinson, Tacoma, WA
Dan Vanderhoof, Olympia, WA

A SPECIAL THANKS ...

Along with their dues, several of our members send additional donations. We would like to offer our additional thanks for their generous support:

Haydn & Cora Lee
Priscilla & Steven Weaver
Lind & Effa McBeth
Bob & Charlotte Powell
Dan Vanderhoof
Clarence & Evelyn Williams
Doug & Denni Bateman
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Bob Bills
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Bonnie Guokas
Mario & Edie Campagna
Don & Mary Flower





BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES

Here are my/our membership dues for 2001. Enclosed is \$5.00 for an individual or family membership.

Here is my/our name as we would like it to appear on the mailing list:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Mail to: Buncom Historical Society, 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530

Bend Newspaper Does Feature Story on Buncom

Feature writer Mark Highberger wrote a lengthy article on Buncom in the Dec. 31, 2000, edition of the Bend, Oregon, Bulletin.

Drawing from material on our website and a visit to our favorite town, Highberger related the history and attractiveness of Buncom:

"Those visitors who expect Victorian elegance or tumbleweed clutter in their ghost towns might react as the folks in the red Blazer (whom he saw while at Buncom) did: with a quick look and a hurried getaway. On the other hand, those who realize that the intrigue and the importance of the town is found not in its buildings but in its history -- as President Clinton seemed to understand when he wrote on the occasion of the post office's 100th birthday that the 'efforts to maintain the symbols of Buncom's past will benefit generations to come' -- might find here a story as simple as its buildings."

After the article appeared, Mr. Highberger dropped us a note "to congratulate you on the work you've done with Buncom."

DIRECTORS

Reeve Hennion, President 899-7656
Lyn Hennion

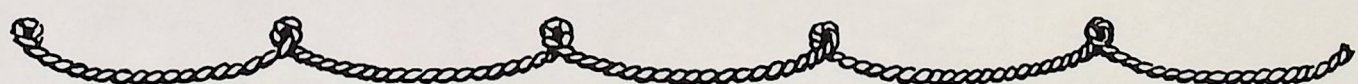
J.B. Roberts, Secretary 899-1125
Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer

Ben Fowler 899-7805
Connie Fowler

The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet:
www.buncom.org

To join the Society, send \$5.00 with your name and address to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.



Eagle Point Hist. Society
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REMINDER!

*It's time for annual dues for 2001.
If you haven't renewed yet, see the
form on the other side of this page.*